

Application Serial No. 09/774,311

**IN THE CLAIMS**

- 1           1. (currently amended): Apparatus for use in an encoder to ensure integrity of a  
2 hypothetical decoder buffer of a video buffer verifier comprising:  
3           an encoder buffer including a bit content;  
4           a transmission controller supplied with a representation of a prescribed number of  
5 bits for controllably inhibiting transmission of bits from said encoder buffer upon said  
6 prescribed number of bits having been read out from said encoder buffer; and  
7           a calculator for generating said representation of said prescribed number of bits in  
8 accordance with a prescribed relationship dependent on said encoder buffer bit content,  
9 and an end of picture indication, said calculator including a detector for determining  
10 whether said picture has ended at an expected time and said calculator being supplied  
11 with a first indication from said detector of said encoder buffer bit content when said  
12 picture actually ended and a second indication from said detector of said encoder buffer  
13 bit content when said picture should have ended.

**Claims 2 and 3 (cancel).**

- 1           4. (currently amended): The apparatus as defined in claim 3-1 wherein said  
2 prescribed number of bits is said encoder buffer bit content when said detector indicates  
3 that said picture ends ~~substantially on~~ at said expected time.

**Claim 5 (cancel).**

- 1           6. (currently amended): The apparatus as defined in claim 5-1 wherein said  
2 detector further determines whether said picture has ended before said expected time, and  
3 wherein said prescribed number of bits is determined to be, in response to said first  
4 indication and said second indication, a number of bits in said encoder buffer bit content  
5 when said picture should have ended less any new bits written into said encoder buffer  
6 during an interval between when said picture actually ended to when said picture should  
7 have ended, when said detector has determined that said picture has ended ~~early relative~~  
8 ~~to~~ before said expected time for said picture to end.

- 1           7. (original): The apparatus as defined in claim 6 wherein said encoder buffer  
2 includes a write pointer having a position representative of the number of bits written into  
3 said encoder buffer, said write pointer position at the time said picture actually ended

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4 being said first indication and said write pointer position at the time said picture is  
5 expected to end being said second indication.

1 8. (original): The apparatus as defined in claim 7 wherein said new bits written  
2 into said encoder buffer is equal to said second indication less said first indication.

1 9. (currently amended): The apparatus as defined in claim ~~3-1~~ wherein said  
2 detector further determines whether said picture has ended after said expected time, and  
3 wherein said transmission controller is essentially disabled from inhibiting transmission  
4 of bits from said encoder buffer during an interval from a time when said picture should  
5 have ended to a time when said picture actually ended, when said detector determines  
6 that said picture will end ~~late~~ after said expected time.

1 10. (currently amended): The apparatus as defined in claim 9 wherein said  
2 prescribed number of bits is a number of bits in said encoder buffer bit content when said  
3 picture actually ended, when said detector has determined that said picture has ended  
4 ~~late~~ after said expected time.

1 11. (currently amended): A method for use in an encoder to ensure integrity of a  
2 hypothetical decoder buffer of a video buffer verifier comprising the steps of:

3 storing bits in an encoder buffer;

4 controllably inhibiting transmission of bits from said encoder buffer in response  
5 to a representation of a prescribed number of bits upon said prescribed number of bits  
6 having been read out from said encoder buffer; and

7 generating said representation of said prescribed number of bits in accordance  
8 with a prescribed relationship dependent on a number of bits stored in said encoder  
9 buffer, and an end of picture indication, determining whether said picture has ended at or  
10 before an expected time and utilizing a first indication of said number of bits stored in  
11 said encoder buffer when said picture actually ended and a second indication of said  
12 number of bits stored in said encoder buffer when said picture should have ended.

1 **Claims 12 and 13 (cancel).**

1 14. (currently amended): The method as defined in claim ~~13-11~~ wherein said  
2 prescribed number of bits is said number of bits stored in said encoder buffer when said  
3 step of determining indicates that said picture ends ~~substantially on~~ at said expected time.

**Claim 15 (cancel).**

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1           16. (currently amended): The method as defined in claim ~~15~~-11 wherein said step  
2 of determining further determines whether said picture has ended before said expected  
3 time, and wherein said step of generating includes a step of utilizing said first indication  
4 and said second indication to generate said representation of said prescribed number of  
5 bits as being a number of bits stored in said encoder buffer when said picture should have  
6 ended less any new bits written into said encoder buffer during an interval between when  
7 said picture actually ended to when said picture should have ended, when said detector  
8 has determined that said picture has ended ~~early relative to an~~ before said expected time  
9 for said picture to end.

1           17. (original): The method as defined in claim 16 wherein said encoder buffer  
2 includes a write pointer having a position representative of the number of bits written into  
3 said encoder buffer, said write pointer position at the time said picture actually ended  
4 being said first indication and said write pointer position at the time said picture is  
5 expected to end being said second indication.

1           18. (original): The method as defined in claim 17 wherein said new bits written  
2 into said encoder buffer is equal to said second indication less said first indication.

1           19. (currently amended): The method as defined in claim ~~13~~-11 wherein said step  
2 of determining further determines whether said picture has ended after said expected  
3 time, and wherein said step of controllably inhibiting transmission is essentially disabled  
4 from inhibiting transmission of bits from said encoder buffer during an interval from a  
5 time when said picture should have ended to a time when said picture actually ended,  
6 when said step of determining determines that said picture will end ~~late~~ after said  
7 expected time.

          20. (currently amended): The method as defined in claim 19 wherein said  
prescribed number of bits is a number of bits in said encoder buffer bit content when said  
picture actually ended, when said ~~detector~~ step of determining has determined that said  
picture has ended ~~late~~ after said expected time.

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